

## HH u3a Bulletin 2 Jan / Feb 2026

That eternal optimist Thomas Hardy thought that Man was an unfortunate evolutionary bi-product in a Godless, purposless universe, his very consciousness and powers of reasoning burdensome as conferring a sense of futility which other living creatures are spared.

Obviously he hadn't heard of u3a!

### So! what's on?

Well, on **Friday 23rd January** at **2pm** in the **Astra Hall, Hassocks**, **Marie Fraser** will be telling the story of **Robert Burns** in words, pictures and song.

Entrance is £2 which includes refreshments, card payment preferred.

On **Thursday 5th February**, **Claudia Wilson** will present her talk about '**Fraud Prevention**'. This will be in **Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill**. Claudia is the Digital Safety and Fraud Delivery Officer at West Sussex County Council.

**Doors open at 09.45 and the talk will be from 10.30 - 11.30**

Refreshments will be available

One day later on **Friday 6th February**, at **10.30** (doors open at 10) in the **HH Methodist Church Wesley Hall, Malcolm Wells MBE** will be saying '**So Far - So Good**' in which he relates stories of his 24 years as an Army musician playing Cello on State occasions and banquets at Kensington & Buckingham Palaces. He also worked for a Charity which trains assistance dogs for disabled people. How do you train a dog to operate a washing machine? well come along and find out!

**Friday 27th February** is when you can hear **Dan Cox**, Head Guide at Brighton & Hove Museum, talk about the history of Preston Manor in his presentation entitled '**A Manor in the Making**'

The talk will be held in **Adastra Hall, Hassocks**.

This talk will commence at **2pm**, (doors open at 1.30) entrance is £2 which includes refreshments, card payment preferred.

## On-Line Courses

The TAT run free on-line talks, workshops and courses for u3a members on a wide variety of subjects.

You can check it out or book your place on <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

## Opera Appreciation

No! Sorry, but you can't just say 'I don't like opera' it would be like saying that you don't like food because you're not keen on pasta! There is such a wide variety that there must be something that you like.

comedy, tragedy and everything in between - opera encompasses all genres.

The first meeting of the new Opera Appreciation group is on Wednesday 21st Jan at 2pm in the Methodist Church upper room.

Come along and give it a try - it won't cost you a penny as the first attendance is a 'taster' - who knows, you might surprise yourself and enjoy it!

## Bird Watchers

The Bird Watchers are a hardy bunch. It takes a degree of dedication to leave the warmth of your home and venture out into the freezing cold in the hope of seeing something that makes such a journey worthwhile.

6 such dedicated souls ventured out to Ardingly Reservoir on a bitterly cold January morning and were treated to seeing 34 different species of birds, including

Bullfinch    Goldcrest    Tufted Duck    4 varieties of Goose    Nuthatch

Siskin        Marsh Tit    &    Gt. Spotted Woodpecker

## My life in Comedy

Last Friday, over 50 members defied the cold, damp and generally miserable weather to hear Colin Bostock-Smith's entertaining talk about his life in comedy.

His talk was full of anecdotes, not all complimentary, about celebrities he has met and worked with and he played extracts that he wrote for 'Not the 9 o'clock News' and 'The Two Ronnies' amongst others.

Just what was needed to brighten an otherwise dreary day.

## Holiday

Burgess Hill u3a are organising a 1/2 board, 5 day break by coach into the Heartland of Wales from 27th September 2026 and they have opened it up to both Haywards Heat and HH&D u3as.

Included with the Luxury Coach Travel are Aberglasney Gardens, Elan Valley, Red Kite feeding Centre and Rheidol Railway.

You will spend 4 nights at The Commodore Hotel which is set in the heart of Llandrindod Wells with beautiful views of the surrounding valley and hills. For more details of the hotel: <http://www.hotelcommodore.co.uk/>

Each day, the coach will take you to various areas of interest including the aforementioned Aberglasney Gardens, Elan Valley, The Wye Valley, Aberystwyth and Ledbury.

The cost is from £729 per person and there is a single supplement of £100.

For more details or to book, contact Marilyn Renwick on [renwick@onetel.com](mailto:renwick@onetel.com)

### In Memoriam

Unfortunately, I have report the deaths of Life member **Joan McCrossan** and **Sue Guy-Jones**. Joan joined HH u3a in 1998 and was a former member of the Gardens and Local History groups.

Sadly, Sue had only been a member for 6 months before she died.

*Paul*

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